THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The revamp of the Namrup I, II & III units of HFC have been approved at a fresh investment of Rs. 350 crore. In the context of mobilisation of the term loan required for the revamp project, the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) has suggested that the Namrup units be constituted into a new Company. This suggestion has been accepted by the Board of Directors of HFC. The final decision in the matter will entail the approval of the rehabilitation scheme of HFC, which is to be submitted to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The revision of the pay scales of the employees of the Namrup units is linked to the segregation of these units.

(b) The urea produced by all manufacturing units is sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3660/- per MT, excluding local taxes. The retention price subsidy payable to the units in question as on 7.7.98 is tabulated below:

Rs/MT

PSU	Name of the unit	Retention Price Subsidy
RCF	Trombay	1609
NFL	Nangal	3700
	Panipat	3339
	Bhatinda	3991
	Vijaipur	1229
	Vijaipur-II	3006
HFC	Namrup-III	0403
	Barauni	7615
	Durgapur	6535

The retention price subsidy payable to different plants varies, *inter-alia*, according to the capacity of the plant, vintage, technology, financing pattern, feedstock and consumption norms. The retention price scheme, under which the retention prices are fixed on the basis of a combination of norms and actuals, is non-discriminatory in nature.

Door-step delivery of Medicines for T.B. Patients

*360. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has studied any proposal to ensure door-step delivery of medicines for T.B. Patients;

(b) if so, the details of this proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of T.B. Patients are not able to obtain T.B. medicines in time; and

(d) how does Government propose to tackle the problem of lack of medication for poor T.B. Patients; the details of steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) After a review of the National TB Programme in 1982 a Revised Strategy was pilot tested in 20 different sites in the country. This revised strategy envisages treatment and service delivery to patients directly by health workers which is called DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short-course).

(c) and (d) The Government has received no such report. However, under the National TB Programme the Central Government has now taken a decision to provide 100% requirement of anti-TB drugs for TB patients free of cost. Drugs are supplied to the District TB Centres from where the District TB Officers redistribute the same to peripheral units. Service delivery is affected through these units to TB patients free of cost.